

COMMENTS ON THE UNFPA DRAFT COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR NEPAL

First regular session 2023

Comments by European Union	UNFPA country/regional office response to comments
<p>One of the biggest gaps in capacity to provide survivor-centred, multi-sectoral responses to gender-based violence and harmful practices, including child marriage, stems from the federalisation process embarked on with the first elections under the 2015 Constitution in 2017, which abolished the service structures of the 77 districts, now putting the frontline government services at municipal level in 753 municipalities. The result hereof is that the backbone of the social care pillar – Women and Children Desks – have all but disappeared. This naturally impacts response capacity whether in normal times or in crises periods. Yet judging from the indicators proposed under Output 2 where this falls, it is not clear whether this gap will be addressed.</p>	<p>UNFPA agrees that the federalisation process presents challenges with ensuring access to multi-sectoral response to gender-based violence and harmful practices. In UNFPA’s 9th Country Programme, as highlighted in output 2, UNFPA will focus on strengthening capacity to provide multi-sectoral responses and referrals to gender-based violence and harmful practices, including child marriage, as well as on advocating for supporting implementation of laws and policies at provincial and local levels to ensure that survivors have timely, quality, coordinated access to multi-sectoral services across development and humanitarian contexts.</p>
Comments by Germany	UNFPA country/regional office response to comments
<p>Summation of planned "regular resources" at the end of the document (page 9-12) incorrect: instead of \$12 million, it should be \$16.5 million</p>	<p>UNFPA appreciates this comments and notes that there was an inadvertent error on page 11. The total regular resources is \$12 million, with programme and coordination assistance accounting for \$0.5 million rather than \$5 million. This error has been corrected in the Results and Resources Framework in the CPD.</p>
Comments by United States of America	UNFPA country/regional office response to comments
<p>There is no mention of the Nepal Health Sector Strategic Plan 2022-2030. Given the SWAP arrangement in the country, the United States recommends increased clarification related to the alignment of UNFPA’s new CPD with the strategies and priorities of the NHSSP, as appropriate. (Section II. Programme priorities and partnerships)</p>	<p>UNFPA thanks the U.S.A. for reviewing the 9th Country Programme Document and for this comment. The CPD has been designed to contribute to national priorities, as mentioned in para. 13. This includes the priorities of the Nepal Health Sector Strategic Plan 2022-2030.</p>

<p>As the United States makes in country progress on the designs of several new activities, including their geographic coverages, the United States through the USAID Mission looks forward to working with UNFPA CO to improve coordination and synergies in U.S. programs, particularly in the provinces and technical areas where there is overlap.</p>	<p>UNFPA appreciates this comment and welcomes the opportunity to improve coordination and synergies between its interventions and those of U.S. programmes.</p>
<p>Given the significant level of co-funding financing and related leveraging, it would seem appropriate that this country program could better align with and contribute to the national strategy</p>	<p>UNFPA notes the comment. The programme has been developed to align with national priorities and strategies, as indicated in para 13, including taking forward Nepal’s voluntary ICPD25 commitments and Family Planning 2030 commitments per para 14.</p>
<p>Overall, the strategy seems robust and ambitious, it would be helpful to see a more specific and targeted approach that would help development partners understand the unique contribution of UNFPA including where respective partners could leverage each other more effectively.</p>	<p>UNFPA takes note of the recommendation for a more specific and targeted approach. In designing the country programme, UNFPA identified clear priorities and, in so doing, considered what other partners, including the UN and development partners, are doing, so as to maximise opportunities for complementarity and synergy. Indeed, the CPD, which is aligned with the UNSDCF so as to ensure coherent UNCT responses in Nepal, carefully draws on UNFPA’s comparative advantage in advancing sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and addressing gender-based violence and harmful practices. To this end, UNFPA will work at the three levels of government to address gaps in policies and laws to accelerate achievement of the three transformative results. UNFPA will also support efforts to ensure implementation of related policies and laws, including through engaging in health systems strengthening initiatives, and by working at the community level to develop models that can be replicated and scaled up, as outlined in para 16.</p> <p>Details of UNFPA interventions will be further elaborated in the operational plan once implementation begins, and the country office stands ready to discuss further with the U.S. as may be needed.</p>
<p>Noting that the document is very broad, the United States recommends that integrating FP/RH into other health areas should be explicitly articulated.</p>	<p>UNFPA recognizes the importance of integrating sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, within the broader efforts of the health system, including efforts related to universal health coverage. Output 1 has been designed to position sexual and</p>

	reproductive health, including family planning, within the context of broader health system strengthening efforts.
The document should more clearly address the FP costed implementation and resource mobilization plan as to how this will be developed, implemented and tracked.	<p>UNFPA agrees that the FP costed implementation plan is critical. The details of how the plan will be developed, implemented, and tracked, in addition to how resources will be mobilised, are captured in the metadata for indicator 1.1, and will be elaborated upon in the operational plan for the 9th country programme. As a part of the country programme, UNFPA will develop investment cases to support advocacy for increased domestic financing for family planning.</p> <p>UNFPA developed a specific resource mobilization and partnership plan to guide efforts to strengthen partnerships and mobilize the required resources to achieve the country programme targets. In the implementation of that plan, UNFPA will make use of its long-standing experience and collaboration with traditional partners, emerging donors, international financial institutions, South-South and triangular cooperation modalities, and work with relevant authorities to support enhanced resource allocation for the country programme.</p>